

Ethics

Introduction to Normative Ethics



Curriculum

D1. Understanding Ethics: demonstrate an understanding of the main questions in ethics, and of the positions of major philosophers and schools of philosophy with respect to some of these questions

- **D1.1** demonstrate an understanding (e.g., in class discussions, debates, presentations, written work) of some of the main questions in ethics
- **D1.2** summarize the positions of various major philosophers

Learning Goals & Success Criteria

We are learning to...

- Summarize and explain the major areas in ethics
- Explain the different moral theories
- Defend views using moral theories

I can...

- List the 3 categories of moral philosophy
- Explain the 4 major types of moral theories
- Use the theories in class to defend my opinion



3 Major Sections

- **Metaethics**

- “What is morality, and where does it come from?”
- Emergence of human values, motivation, and reasoning.

- **Normative ethics**

- “How should I act?”

- **Applied ethics**

- Apply moral considerations into real-life controversial subjects
- Specific actions and practices from the point of moral acceptance.

4 General Categories

- **Deontology**

- Rules determine what is right/wrong

- **Utilitarianism**

- Whichever decision benefits the most people is right

- **Rights**

- What is morally right is what upholds the rights of people
- Established in a society by law or given from one individual to another

- **Virtue Ethics**

- A person's moral character (not actions) determines what is right
- An individual's reputation, motivation, and ethics play a crucial role.

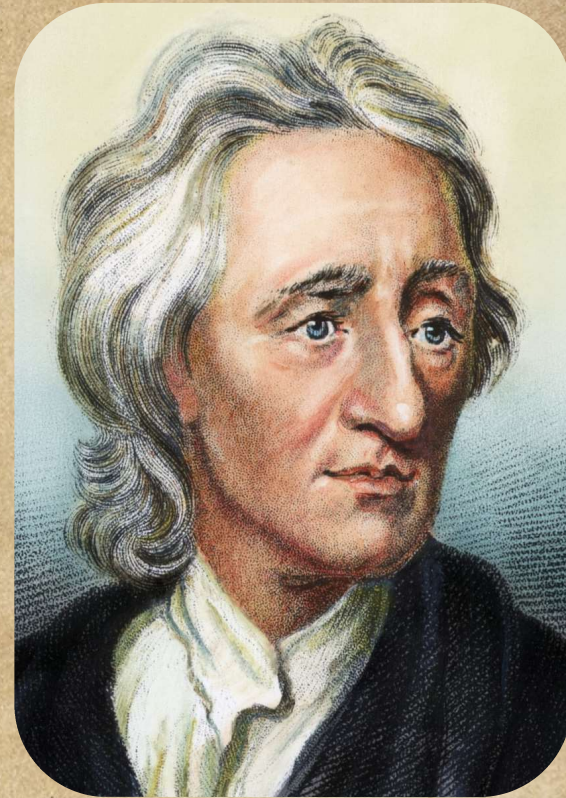
VIRTUE

- Ethical behaviour is measured by trait-based characteristics
 - Honesty
 - Courage
 - Wisdom
- Not based on consequences or duties they must obey
- If you are a good person, with good virtues, then you are acting ethically, regardless of what you choose to do



RIGHTS

- Rights established by a society are protected and given the highest priority
- Ethically correct and valid because a large population endorses them
- How do we determine what are universal rights?
 - Who has the right?
 - What actions/states/objects does the right cover/relate to?
 - Why does the individual have the right?
 - How that right can be affected by an individual's action?



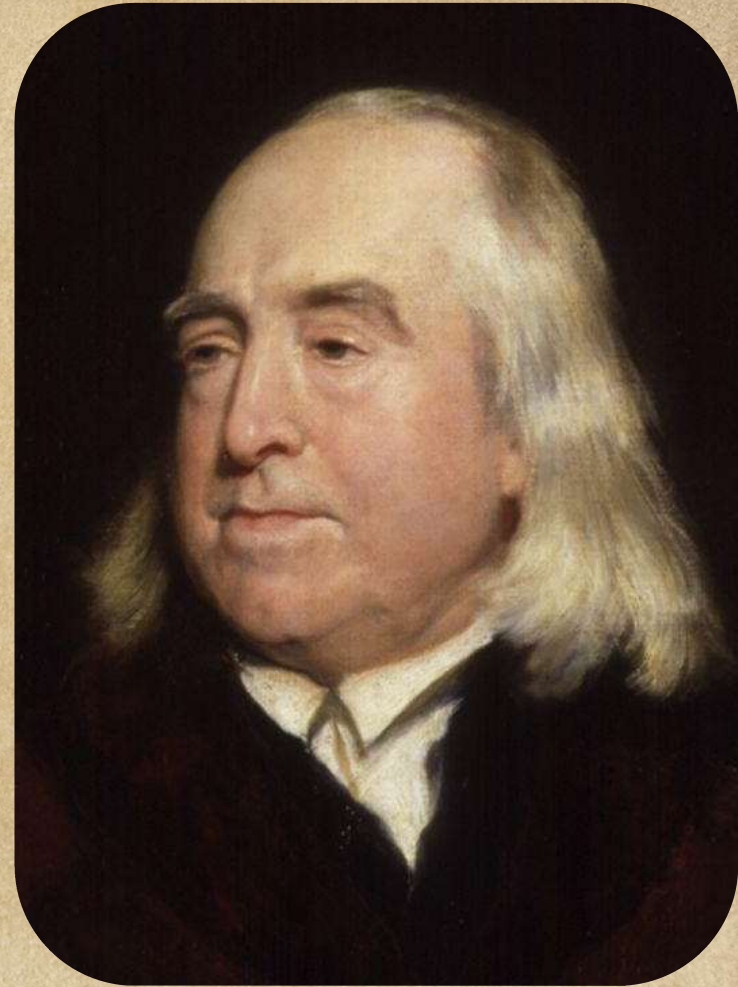
DEONTOLOGY

- The moral rightness of an action is based by the inherent “goodness” of an action
- The consequence/result does not matter – if the action was morally right, it should always be done
- Lying is wrong, so you should **never** lie, even if it would make someone upset/lead to a negative outcome



UTILITARIANISM

- The consequences are what determine if an action was right or wrong
- We want to yield the greatest benefit to the most people
- Determined on a case-to-case basis
- Most popular theory in daily life/modern society

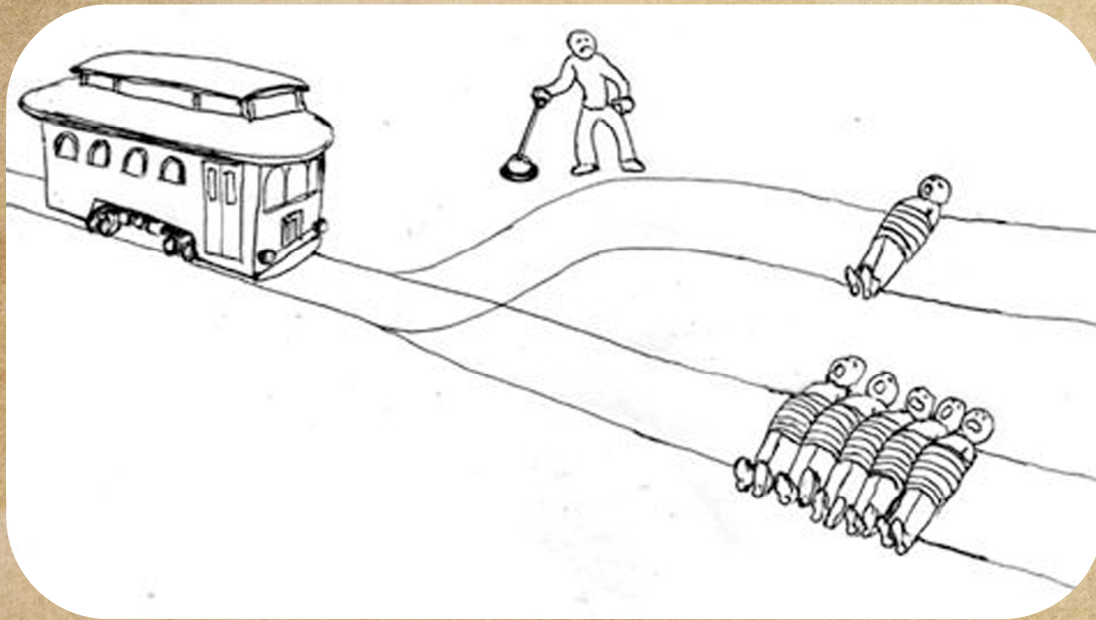


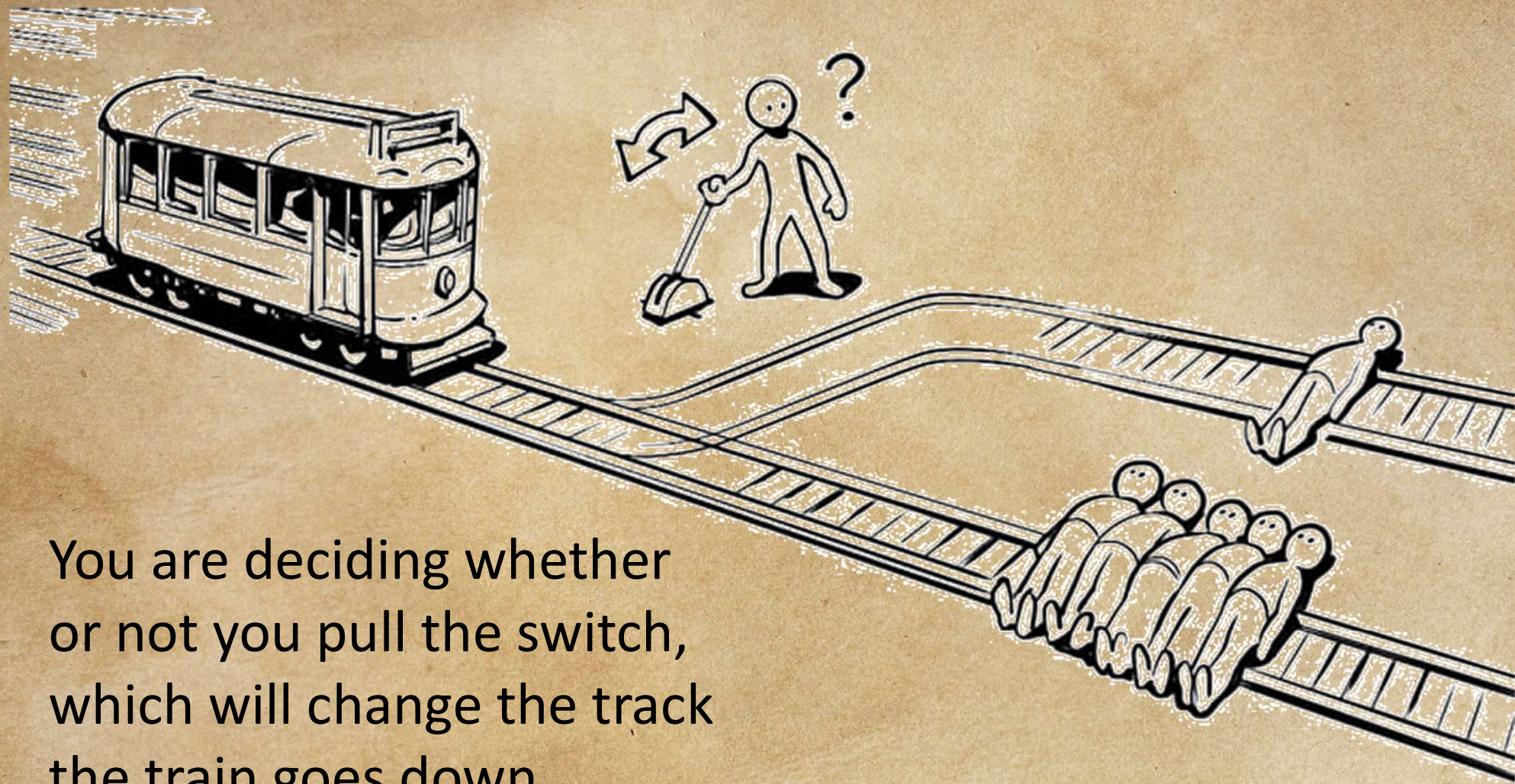
Discussion Ground Rules

1. Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
2. Criticize ideas, not individuals.
3. Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
4. Allow everyone the chance to speak.
5. Avoid assumptions about any member of the class or generalizations about social groups

Let's put those theories to the test!

Philippa Foot & The Trolley Problem

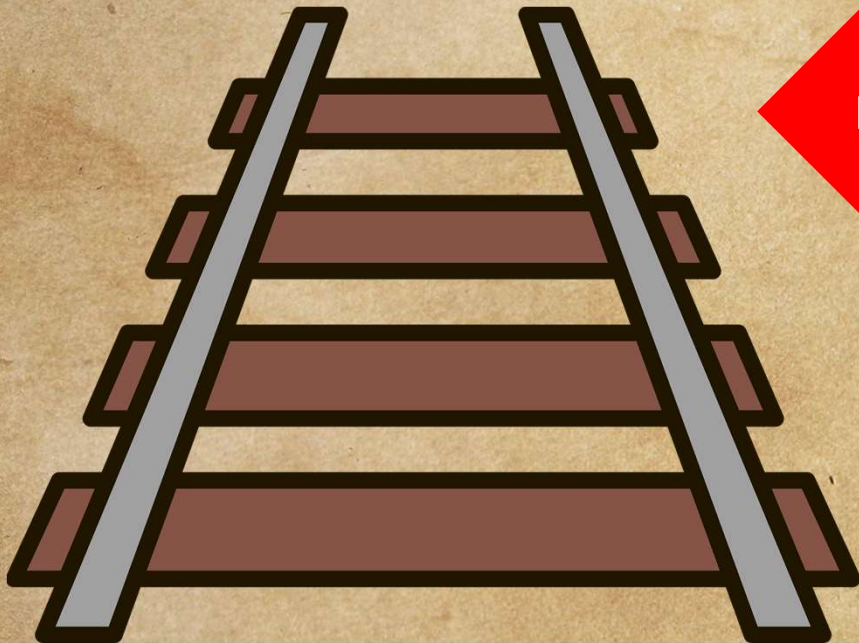




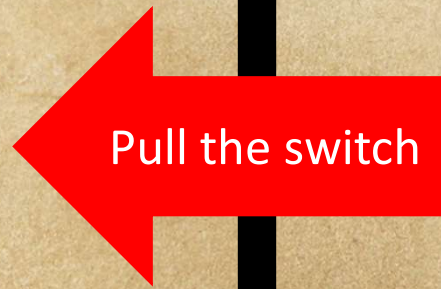
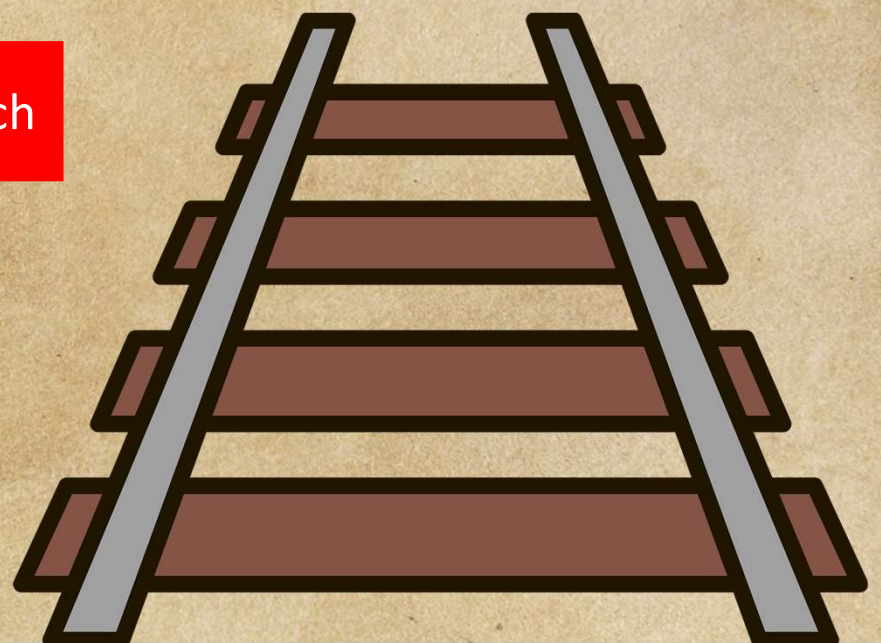
You are deciding whether or not you pull the switch, which will change the track the train goes down



1 person

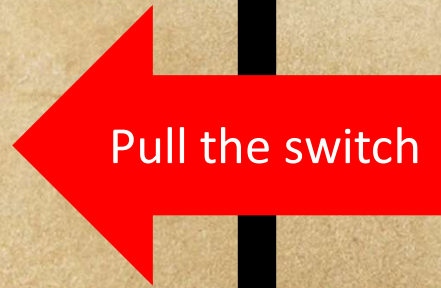
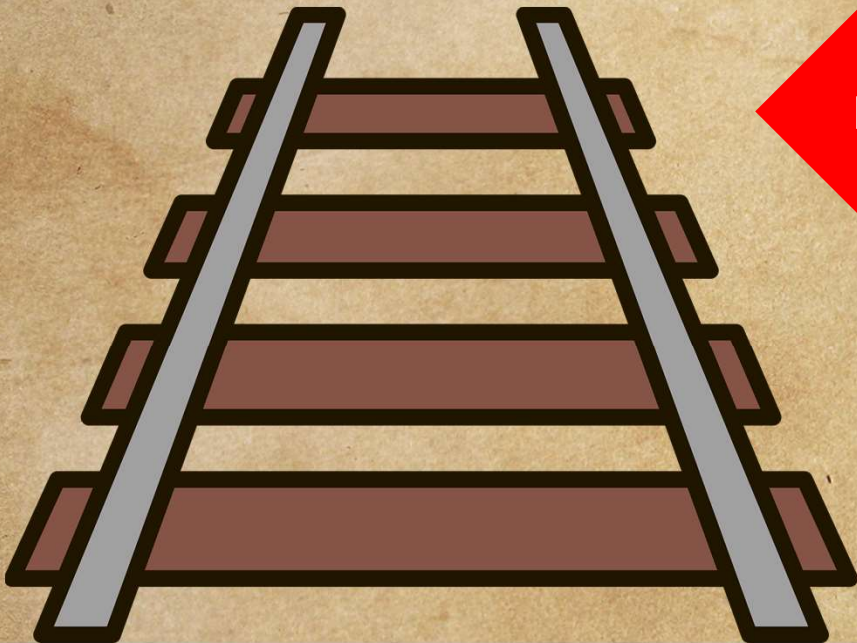


5 people

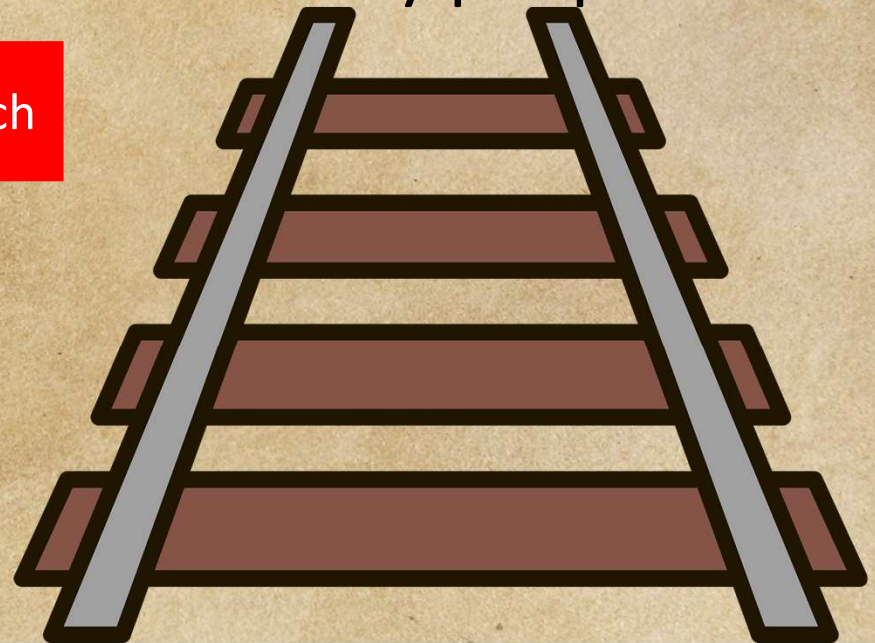


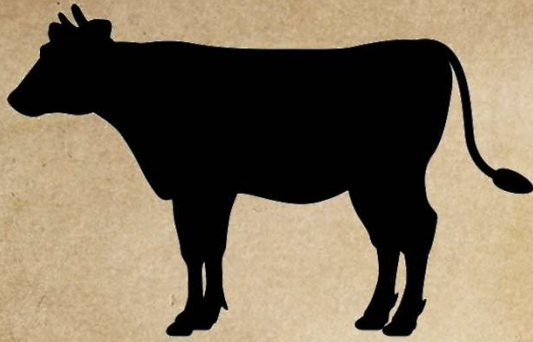


1 healthy
baby

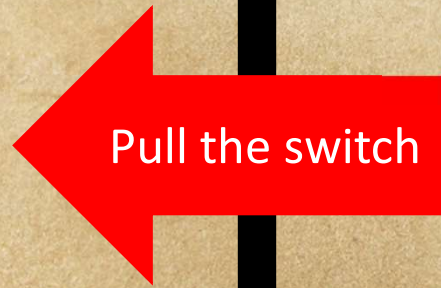
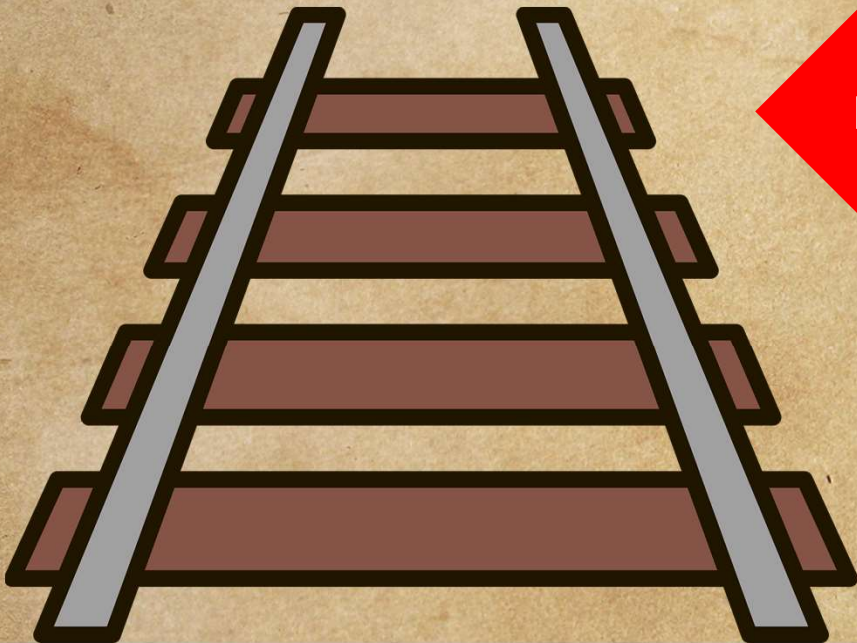


5 healthy
elderly people

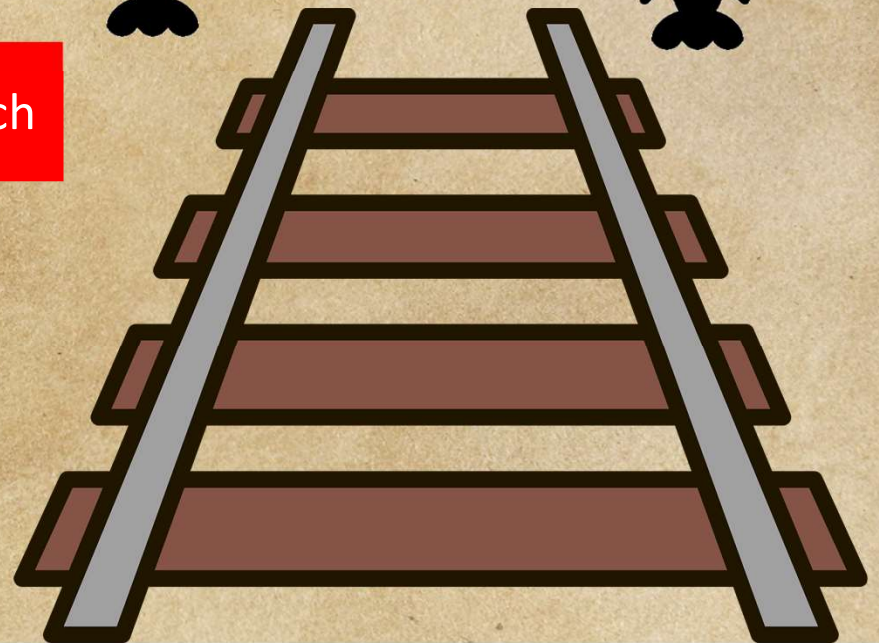




1 cow

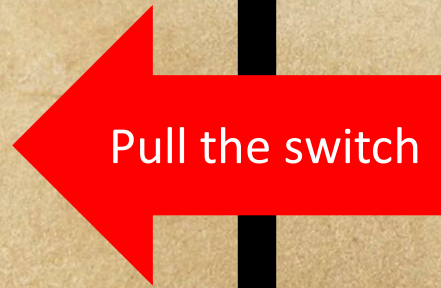
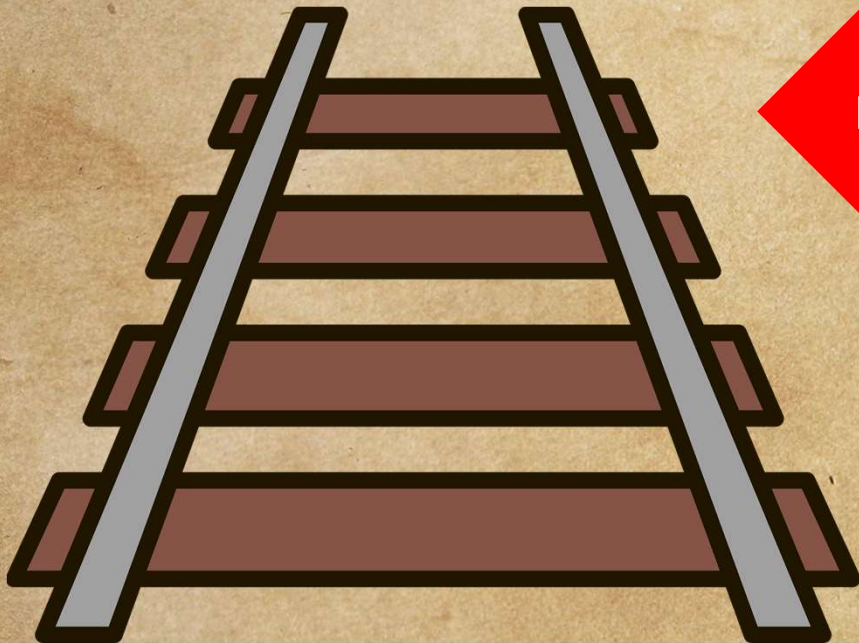


5 lobsters

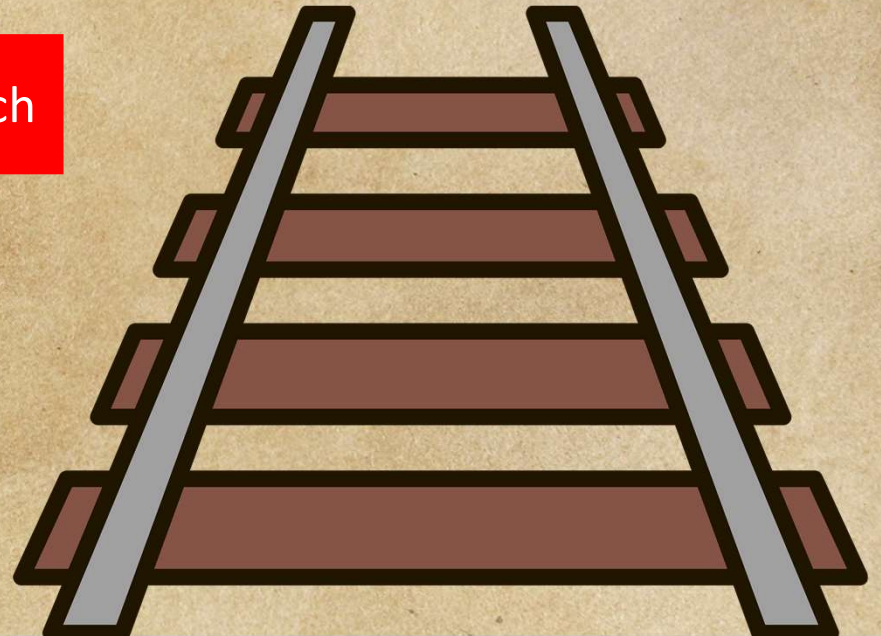




1 person



1 rich person
offering you an
untraceable
\$5,000,000 to
pull the switch

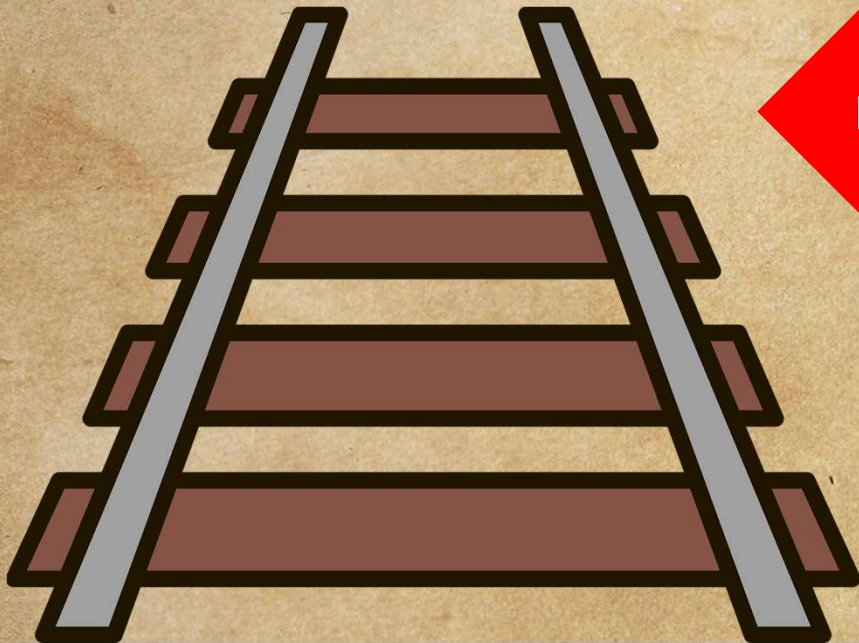




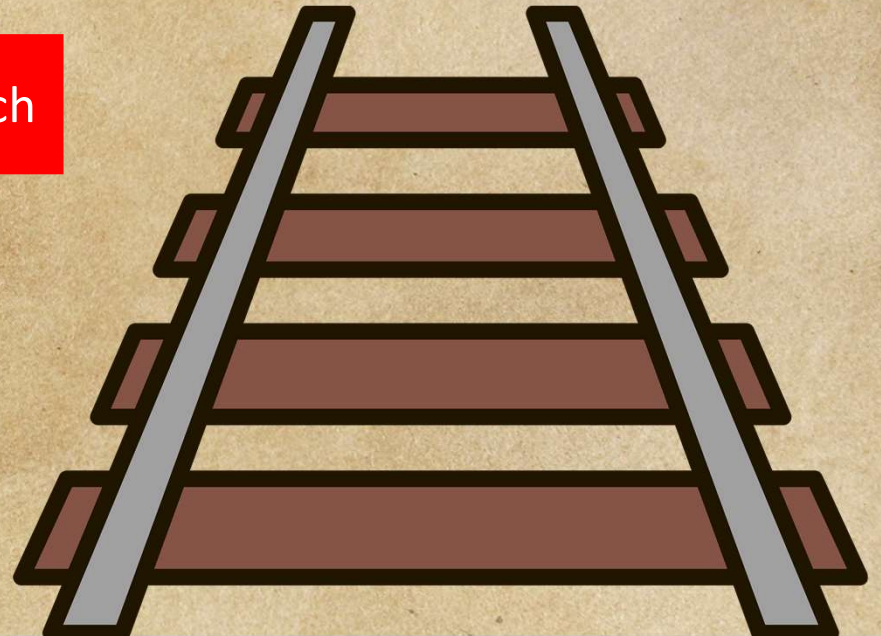
1 rich person
offering you an
untraceable
\$5,000,000 to NOT
pull the switch

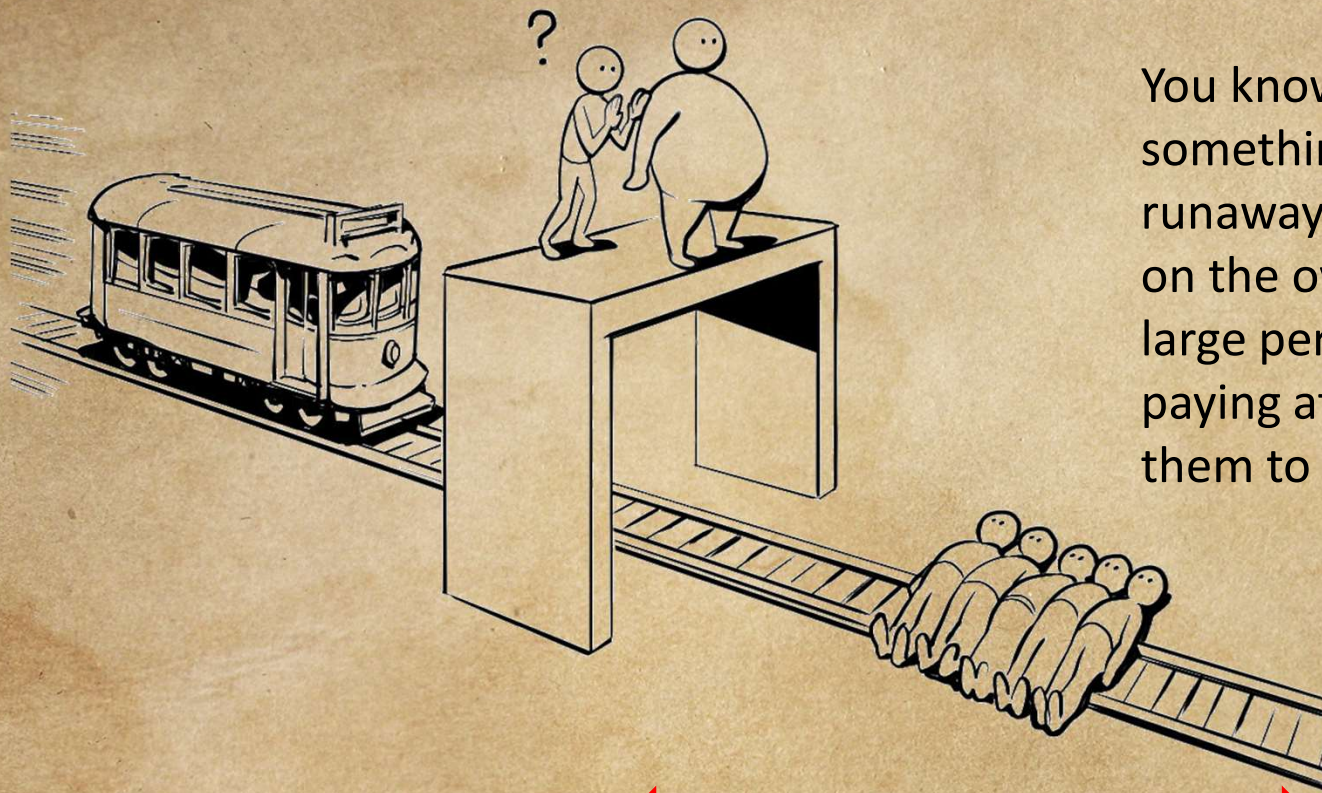


2 people

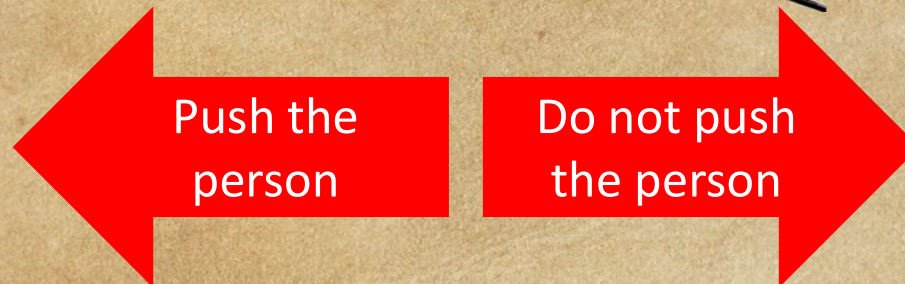


Pull the switch

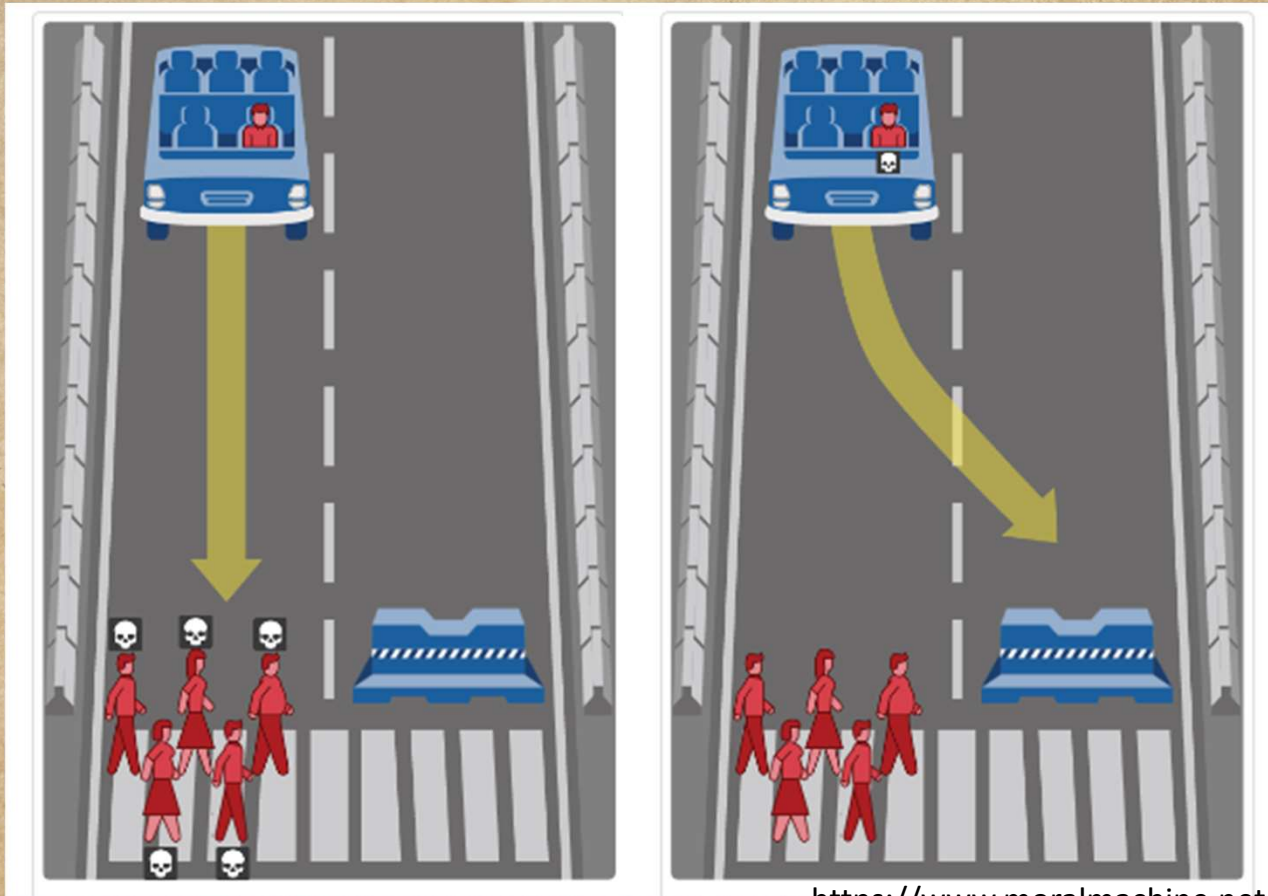




You know for a fact that if you put something heavy in front of the runaway train, it will stop. You are on the overpass, and there is a large person beside you, not paying attention. Do you push them to stop the train?



How is this relevant in real life?



<https://www.moralmachine.net>